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ABSTRACT

This book identifies two competing traditions of American democracy and citizenship: a dominant, privately-oriented citizenship tradition and an alternative tradition of public democratic citizenship. Based on the second tradition, the book outlines a set of qualities an effective democratic citizen must possess, as well as a number of ideal school practices that promote these qualities in young people. This discussion provides a framework for analyzing two democratic urban alternative high schools. The book is divided into two sections with nine chapters. Part 1, "American Democracy: Privatized or Public?," contains: (1) "Democratic Ideology, Hegemony, and Education"; (2) "Ideological Roots of Privatized and Public Democracy: Contrasting Locke and the Federalists with Rousseau and Jefferson"; (3) "Privatized Democracy: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Ideology and Practice"; (4) "Public Democracy"; and (5) "Education for Public Democratic Citizenship." Part 2, "Democratic Education? Tales from Two Schools," includes: (1) "Structure and Organization to Two Democratic High Schools"; (2) "Curriculum and Pedagogy in Two Democratic High Schools"; (3) "Promoting Public Democratic Citizenship: Student Responses to School Programs"; and (4) "In Search of Public Democratic Education." (EH)

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